

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/630,015

Examiner

Carolyn M Bleck

Applicant(s)

SAEED ET AL.

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3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 25 August 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 10.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 11162004.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11162004</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed 25 August 2004.
Claims 1-7 and 10 are pending. Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7 have been amended. Claims 8-9 and 11-15 have been cancelled.

Claim Objections

2. The objection of claim 7 is hereby withdrawn due to the amendment filed 25 August 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The rejections of claims 2, 4, 5, 7, and 10 are hereby withdrawn due to the amendment filed 25 August 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. The rejections of claims 1, 4, and 5 are hereby withdrawn due to the amendment filed 25 August 2004.

Examiner's Amendment

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

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by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

6. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin Vanderleeden on 16 November 2004.

7. The application has been amended as follows:

Please replace the title with the following:

A Method and System for Providing Evaluation Data from Tracked, Formatted
Administrative Data of a Service Provider

Please enter all of the following changes to the claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A computerized method for processing administrative data of a service provider, comprising the steps of:

defining standard administrative data formats for use by service provider systems, a coordinator system, and a plurality of practice management agent systems, said practice management agent systems being independent of payer systems, in creating and processing administrative data, said administrative data formats are defined by the coordinator system through the use of software on a computer;

receiving administrative data from said medical service provider, said administrative data including billing, reimbursement, credentialing, preauthorization and collection data;

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formatting said administrative data using said standard administrative data formats;

providing formatted administrative data to a practice management agent system for processing, said processing including providing the formatted administrative data to payer systems;

tracking the formatted administrative data transferred between said service provider system and said practice management agent systems, said administrative data tracked by said coordinator system through the use of software on a computer;

creating objective, historical evaluation data from the tracked formatted administrative data transferred between said service provider system and said practice management agent systems, said objective, historical evaluation data consisting of price, features, turnaround time, ancillary services, guarantees, and customer service information, said evaluation data created by said coordinator system through the use of software on a computer; and

providing said objective, historical evaluation data to said service provider system for evaluation and selection of a practice management agent system from the plurality of practice management agent systems, said evaluation data provided by the coordinator system to said service provider system over an electronic network.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-7 and 10 are allowed.
9. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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(A) As per claim 1, the closest prior art (Spurgeon US Patent No. 5,890,129) teaches a method for exchanging health care insurance, clinical, and business information between insurer and multiple health care providers for efficient administration of services in the health care delivery system, but does not disclose or fairly suggest the use of defining standard administrative data formats for use by service provider systems, a coordinator system, and a plurality of practice management agent systems, said practice management agent systems being independent of payer systems, in creating and processing administrative data, tracking formatted administrative data transferred between a service provider system and practice management agent systems, creating objective, historical evaluation data from the tracked formatted administrative data transferred between said service provider system and said practice management agent systems, said objective historical evaluation data consisting of price, features, turnaround time, ancillary services, guarantees, and customer service information, and providing said objective historical evaluation data to said service provider system for evaluation and selection of a practice management agent system from the plurality of practice management agent systems, in combination with the remaining steps of the claim.

(B) Claims 2-5 incorporate the features of claim 1 through dependency, and would also be allowed for the same reasons given above.

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(C) As per claim 7, the closest prior art (Spurgeon US Patent No. 5,890,129) teaches a system for exchanging health care insurance, clinical, and business information between insurer and multiple health care providers for efficient administration of services in the health care delivery system, but does not disclose or fairly suggest the use of a system for providing administrative services for a medical service provider comprising coordinator system for standardizing administrative data formats for processing administrative data of a medical service provider system by a first medical practice management agent system, said medical practice management agent systems being independent of payer systems, said coordinator system providing data access authorization and security for said administrative data of said medical service provider system to said first medical practice management agent system, and for providing evaluation data from said first medical practice management agent system for evaluation by said medical service provider system. More specifically, Spurgeon does not disclose an interface module located within the coordinator system for accessing the administrative data generated in the standardized data format, said interface module transfers the administrative data to the medical practice management agent systems and transfers processed data from the medical practice management agent systems to the medical service provider system, an evaluation module located within the coordinator system for creating historical performance data based upon administrative data processing by said medical practice management agent systems, a first communication link between said service provider system and said coordinator system, a second communication link between said medical practice management agent system

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and said coordinator system, wherein said standardized administrative data format substantially eliminates costs incurred by said medical service provider system for switching from said first medical practice management agent system to a second medical practice management agent system.

(D) Claim 10 incorporates the features of claim 7 through dependency, and would also be allowed for the same reasons given above.

(E) Claim 6 is directed towards an agent-neutral computerized system for providing administrative services for a medical service provider comprising a means for defining standard administrative data formats for use by service provider systems, a coordinator system, and a plurality of practice management agent systems, said practice management agent systems being independent of payer systems in creating and processing administrative data. Further, claim 6 is directed towards a means for tracking formatted administrative data transferred between a service provider system and practice management agent systems, a means for creating objective, historical evaluation data from the tracked formatted administrative data transferred between said service provider system and said practice management agent systems, said objective historical evaluation data consisting of price, features, turnaround time, ancillary services, guarantees, and customer service information, and a means for providing said objective historical evaluation data to said service provider system for evaluation and

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selection of a practice management agent system from the plurality of practice management agent systems.

The closest prior art (Spurgeon US Patent No. 5,890,129) teaches a method for exchanging health care insurance, clinical, and business information between insurer and multiple health care providers for efficient administration of services in the health care delivery system, but does not disclose or fairly suggest the use of a means for defining standard administrative data formats for use by service provider systems, a coordinator system, and a plurality of practice management agent systems, said practice management agent systems being independent of payer systems in creating and processing administrative data. More specifically, Spurgeon does not disclose a means for tracking formatted administrative data transferred between a service provider system and practice management agent systems, a means for creating objective, historical evaluation data from the tracked formatted administrative data transferred between said service provider system and said practice management agent systems, said objective historical evaluation data consisting of price, features, turnaround time, ancillary services, guarantees, and customer service information, and a means for providing said objective historical evaluation data to said service provider system for evaluation and selection of a practice management agent system from the plurality of practice management agent systems.

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carolyn Bleck whose telephone number is (703) 305-3981. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:00am – 5:30pm, and from 8:30am – 5:00pm on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached at (703) 305-9588.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-1113.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306 or (703) 872-9326 [Official communications]


(703) 872-9327 [After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(703) 746-8374 [Informal/ Draft communications, labeled
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive,
Arlington, VA, 7th Floor (Receptionist).

CB
CB

November 17, 2004


JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600